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YATES' PORTRAITS

Close of the Exhibition at Art League.

REVIEW OF THE ARTIST'S WORK

Difference in Conditions of London and Honolulu.

Artistic Effect First Consideration.
Will Visit California and Japan.

The exhibition of Fred Yates' paintings at the rooms of the Kilohana Art League closed last night. Yesterday afternoon the rooms were open to the general public for two hours, and many people availed themselves of the opportunity to view the painter's great works. In the evening, from 8 to 10, there was a reception to the members and friends of the league, and at times it was difficult to get a really good view of the portraits, owing to the crowded condition of the rooms.

But once before has the league tendered a reception to a non-resident artist, and never in the history of the league have such artistic portraits been exhibited in Honolulu, for as an artist, no one of Mr. Yates' standing in his profession has ever visited the Islands, and it is doubtful if in years to come the people of Honolulu will have an opportunity to see in one collection or at one time such capital work as was shown during this exhibition.

As there is no criterion, or in other words, in the absence here of an established tribunal where works of art may be submitted and judgment passed upon them by competent critics, the artist must needs depend upon Mrs. Doe, or Mrs. Roe, whose husband's portrait he has painted, to say whether or not it is good; artistic effects are not considered even when the likeness is good.

As a rule, unless each individual has stands as the good wife, not the artist, sees it, the picture is condemned. The relatives are prone to overlook the fact that in his whole life the artist sees his subject only while he is in the studio; at the best he can only paint his own impression. Ruskin has said: "The greatest thing a man can do in this world is to see a thing and tell in a plain way what he sees."

Mr. Yates' heart and soul are wrapped in his profession, and his first aim is to secure a likeness, but with as much artistic effect in light and shade and color as is possible to get; he never sacrifices one for the other, though with the true instinct of the artist he should give preference to effect. His paintings vary as with every artist, for he is not a machine; his best work is when the inspiration is right. In some of his sketchy portraits he accomplished better tone effect than in his more careful work, an accident, perhaps, but a lucky one, for he secured a tone, which, as a rule, comes only with the age of the portrait.

In England Mr. Yates' standing in the profession is the envy of older artists, and yet he began painting only 16 years ago. He attributes much of his success in London to the fact that they judge art there for art's sake and preference is oftentimes given to the paintings broadly handled, and where bold color effects predominate. Polished portraits have no place with the connoisseur in London; he wants that which shows art in its broadest sense. And that is what this artist has shown the people of Honolulu.

Mr. Yates was not reachable to the newspaper men during the exhibition last night, for every moment of his time was occupied by visitors, but after the excitement was over, and as he sat resting at the hotel, he was willing to talk.

"Yes, I feel at home much more when I have a large canvas under my brush. I think this shows in both the portraits of Judge Hartwell and of Mrs. Rice. It is not that they occupied more time, nor taxed a sitter's patience, for I frequently have painted my best canvases in 12 to 16 hours, and neither of these large canvases occupied more time.

"The portrait of Judge Hartwell represents what I saw daily at his house for two or three weeks. I did not hurry to commence the portrait, but the impression was strong upon me. On his return from the office, one might, any afternoon, see him looking pensively out into the landscape, the evening drawing in—a fit subject for any painter.

"It was with difficulty I persuaded him to sit to me.
"After his portrait the doors of Honolulu seemed open to me; Mrs. Rice's

followed—a portrait that I believe will live, and that I believe is equally as good as Judge Hartwell's.

"The portrait of President Dole suffered somewhat under the cold electric light, and in its defense I will say it looks better by daylight; but this is a portrait in which I feel to have done the best work of my life.

"Dr. Hyde is my most recent canvas, a portrait completed under 12 hours, which, from all comments I have heard, is admired by all the doctor's friends.

"I commence each portrait with a pencil sketch, and lay in the composition of the portrait in a harmony of color which I try to keep to its completion. The difficulty that assails one is the woeful criticism that often reaches the painter long before he is ready to receive them. This I have tried to avoid in some houses by carrying my canvas away, allowing no member of the family to see it until its completion. The portrait of Dr. McKibbin, painted for the members of the Pacific Club, was done in four hours, and by all who know him, allow it to be one of my best works. It was the plain telling of what I frequently saw—the doctor in discussing, leaning back in his arm chair—and while arguing or laying down the law, gently tapping the bowl of his pipe—a habit that must have been his for years past.

"The reason of my painting two portraits of Mr. Tom May arose from my having painted the first one with a hat—the family regretted this appendage, and so I volunteered to paint my sitter as one finds him at home, without the hat, not so striking to those who know him in the city, is greatly appreciated by his home circle.

"The portrait of Mrs. Bishop, painted by the command of Mr. Sam Damon, has led to his commissioning me to paint a 3/4-length of Mr. Bishop on my return to San Francisco. To this delightful task I greatly look forward and hope to give pleasure to many of his friends here. I have made it my rule never to press on any one the acceptance of a portrait to which they in any way demur, or as is sometimes the case where I feel I cannot conscientiously affix my signature, and it is to this cause alone that I feel to have gained the confidence of my London circle.

"The disappointment expressed by many at the non-appearance of the portrait of Mrs. Irwin was of my own doing; I did not succeed, and I took the only alternative of withdrawing it. Mrs. Irwin kindly consenting. But some day I hope to redeem my lost opportunity.

"The portrait of Mrs. S. G. Wilder was painted at the Waikiki residence, a work of delight, completed in 19 hours' sitting—at the same house was painted in one sitting the portrait of Mrs. Day. Her departure for one of the neighboring islands made it impossible for me to accept the commission for a highly-finished portrait. In many of the quickly executed sketches the qualities of handling and fresh color often atone for the lack of what is termed finish.

"Of children's portraits I have had many offers to take commissions, but only the one of Dorothy Wood have I accepted.

"It was not my opportunity to thank all the appreciative guests of the Art League, but I shall carry away with me the certainty of their confidence that in everything I have done I have at least worked with pleasure and conscientiousness while in Honolulu."

Mr. Yates leaves on Friday for San Francisco where he has some commissions to execute. When these are finished he will visit Japan.

Emperor William's Birthday.

At the German Consulate yesterday the anniversary of the 38th birthday of Emperor William was celebrated by a reception to a large number of people between the hours of 12 and 1. The Hawaiian Band, stationed near the street, played various German airs to call to mind more clearly the nature of the day that was being celebrated. In the private office on the left-hand side of the entrance was spread a sumptuous luncheon, and here the health of the German Emperor was drunk many times. Consul J. F. Hackfeld received the guests at the door.

Kindergarten Work.

The latest gift to the Kindergarten Society is of a character that will enable the directors to provide new quarters for the Portuguese. The building used in the past was so small that many applicants had to be turned away, but the new one, which will be located quite close to the new Portuguese Church will have a capacity large enough for present purposes.

Fire House Contract.

The fire-house award may be made this afternoon. It was officially given out yesterday that the contract would be given to one of the following: John F. Bowler, Fred Harrison, F. H. Redwood, Arthur Harrison, Oudekirk & Lishman. All other matters coming up to the proper standard, the preference will come in the order named.

STUDENTS PAPER

Assistance Rendered by Bureau of Education.

CHINESE STUDENTS GET HOLIDAY

Teachers' Association to Meet on Monday.

Vertical Writing to Be Adopted in Island Schools—Leased to Mr. Isenberg.

Minister Cooper, Inspector General Townsend, Deputy Inspector Scott, Messrs. Alexander and Bowen, Messdames Dillingham and Jordan, and Secretary Rodgers were present at the meeting of the Commissioners of Education, held Wednesday afternoon. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Townsend, for the Teachers' Committee, reported on the matter of arranging suitable tuition for Chinese pupils over the school age who have been attending Mr. Wells' school. Deferred.

Professor Alexander reported an enterprise of Mr. Abbott to furnish supplementary reading matter for schools. It was the only local scheme of the kind, and would be supplied at the bare cost of publication. The paper would be called "Hawaii's Young People." Professor Alexander, Mr. Townsend and others favored a proposal for the department to take over the work, paying Mr. Abbott 20 cents per copy per annum for the entire issue. Mr. Townsend moved to take 1,000 copies, which would cost \$200. Mr. Scott thought the expenditure could be made, as the book fund would not be drawn upon during the present year. The number of copies suggested would give from five to 10 copies to each school, in charge of the teachers, papers not to be taken from the school motion carried.

Mr. Townsend, for the same committee, reported on the application of T. H. Gibson of the Waimea School for salary for month of September, during which he was absent from the country, recommending that, for reasons given, the salary claimed be paid. The circumstances in the teacher's favor appeared without general precedent, which actuated the board in adopting the recommendation.

Mr. Townsend brought up the matter of examination of teachers, which should be held very soon. The inspector general was shortly going to Maui and Hawaii, and offered to conduct the examinations in person at Hilo. He recommended that examinations be arranged. All details were left to the inspector general.

Mr. Scott asked what should be done in the Chinese schools with regard to Chinese new year. Last year attendance was not enforced. The deputy inspector recommended that Chinese children be excused for the first four days of next week from school, and that transient officers be so instructed. Carried.

Mr. Scott brought up the matter of the half-acre of land upon which Mr. Paul Isenberg's stables are situated at Waialae. The lot, he said, belonged to the department and Mr. Isenberg desired either to lease or purchase it. There was considerable discussion on the subject, after which it was agreed to lease the plot to Mr. Isenberg for five years at \$8 per annum.

Mr. Scott, as chairman of the Entertainment Committee of the Honolulu Teachers' Association, invited the board to attend the meeting to be held in the High School building Monday evening. As such chairman, also, he invited Minister Cooper to address the meeting.

Mr. Townsend brought up the subject of what is termed "vertical writing," i. e., requiring children to sit upright and directly fronting the desk, in place of sideways and writing vertically. The system had been recommended by a German physician as being easier on the spine and as dividing the strain between the eyes, thus preventing shortsightedness, etc. It has been generally endorsed by school

boards in the United States. The board placed itself on record as in favor of the system, and recommended its adoption by all the schools of the Islands.

After referring a few private matters to the Teachers' Committee, the board went into executive session.

After Pat Cullen.

News was received by the James Makee yesterday that Deputy Sheriff Coney of Lihue, Kauai, and a posse of 20 men went up into Kalalau Valley several days ago after the escaped convict, Pat Cullen, but were forced to give up the hunt on account of the wind and rain which made access beyond a certain point impossible. The posse got up as far as a house which Cullen had slept in on the night before. There they found his wife and child. Instructions from the Marshal have been sent for, and another trial after Cullen will be made in a few days. Most of the men taken last time are inexperienced in the use of the rifle and it will be sought to give them some practice before making another attempt.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS.

Set on Foot in Maui by Health Agent Reynolds.

C. B. Reynolds, Executive Officer of the Board of Health who returned from Maui Tuesday afternoon, is now busy making estimates for repairs on the Malulani hospital in Waialuku, which he states is in sad need of attention. The roofs of the main building and small houses surrounding are all in a leaking condition, and he has recommended that a corrugated iron covering be placed over the shingles as a matter of economy and comfort.

In Kahului Mr. Reynolds set on foot some reforms which he left in the hands of the agent of the Board of Health at that place. The principal one is to the effect that an arrangement be made with the plantation to cart away weekly all the garbage and refuse of the place which must prove very valuable as fertilizer. This is recommended on account of the peculiar conditions of Kahului, which makes it necessary that garbage and refuse be piled in heaps about the place, endangering the health of the people. Another recommendation is that there be more accuracy in the registration of births, deaths and marriages.

ESCAPED CONTRACT LABORER

Caught in a Wash House Gang of Gamblers Sunday Night.

Last week Tuesday a number of Chinese contract laborers were sent to Hamoa plantation, Maui, on the island steamer Claudine. Four were successful in an attempt to get away before the steamer left port, and the authorities have been after them, carrying in their inside pockets photographs, by means of which to identify the Chinamen.

On Sunday night Captain Fernandes made a raid on the wash house in Iwilei and captured nine out of 15 gamblers, who came up for trial in the police court yesterday morning. When lined up in a semi-circle before Judge De La Vergne, Hong Sam, the Chinese police officer, stepped up before one of the men, and, drawing a photograph from his pocket, made a comparison. He was soon satisfied that he had the right man, and proceeded to question him. He answered that he had been in the country three years. Questioning him in English and Hawaiian brought out the fact that the Chinaman could speak neither of the languages.

Later on Jack Lucas went to the police station with an enlarged bromide photograph and the identification was made complete.

Honolulu Teachers' Association.

A called meeting of the Honolulu Teachers' Association will be held in the High School building next Monday evening, February 1st. All teachers, local and visiting, and the general public are invited to attend. Papers by the best educators will be read, and a carefully selected literary program will be carried out.

This meeting is not a regular one. It is called for the entertainment of the public, of course, and in order to bring teachers in closer touch with each other. Professor Townsend, Mr. J. L. Dumas, Professor Hosmer and others have been placed on the list for literary contributions.

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